

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An optical information recording medium, comprising a first information layer, a second information layer, ..., and an n-th information layer (where n is an integer of 3 or greater), in that order, on a substrate, with each of these separated by an intermediate layer, with which the recording and reproduction of information are performed by causing laser light to be incident from the n-th information layer side,

wherein all of the information layers have a recording layer composed of a material containing Te, O, and M (where M is one or more elements selected from among Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, In, Sn, Sb, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Bi), and

$$M_n \geq \dots \geq M_2 \geq M_1 \text{ and } M_1 \neq M_n$$

are satisfied, where M_1 is the compositional ratio of the material M in the first information layer, M_2 is the compositional ratio of the material M in the second information layer, ..., and M_n is the compositional ratio of the material M in the n-th information layer, wherein

M_k is at least 2 atom% greater than M_{k-1} where M_k and M_{k-1} are the compositional ratios of the material M in a k^{th} information layer and a $k-1^{\text{th}}$ information layer, respectively, with k being an integer satisfying the relationship $[[(j)] 2 \leq k \leq n [(j)]]$.

26. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein M_k is at least 4 atom% greater than M_{k-1} .

27. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein the thickness of the recording layers is at least 1 nm and no more than 50 nm.

28. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the first to n-th information layers has a protective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer and/or the opposite side from the substrate side, and the protective layer is composed of a material with a refractive index n of at least 1.5.

29. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the first to n-th information layers has a reflective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer, and the reflective layer is composed of a material whose refractive index n is no more than 2 and whose extinction coefficient k is at least 2.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing the optical information recording medium according to Claim 25,

comprising annealing in which the temperature is held at 60°C or higher for at least 5 minutes after at least the recording layers have been formed.

32. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein M_k is at least 5 atom% greater than M_{k-1} .